# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## Reminder: Circle Hook Requirements in the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery Effective March 3, 2011

Beginning March 3, 2011, the use of non-stainless steel circle hooks (offset or non-offset) will be required on any vessel (commercial or recreational) using hook-and-line gear with natural baits to fish for snapper-grouper species north of 28 degrees N. latitude in federal waters of the South Atlantic. After March 3, 2011, it will be unlawful to possess snapper-grouper species north of 28 degrees N. latitude without possessing non-stainless steel circle hooks. The use of circle hooks is expected to reduce bycatch mortality of incidentally caught red snapper and other non-target fish species.

This circle hook requirement is being implemented through the final rule for Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 17A), which was published by NOAA Fisheries Service on December 9, 2010. The effective date of the circle hook requirement was delayed for 90-days after publication of the final rule to allow adequate time for fishery participants to obtain the required gear.

**Addresses**
Electronic copies of Amendment 17A and the final rule may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov, the e-Rulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov docket number NOAA-NMFS-2010-0035, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at http://www.safmc.net, or for hard copies contact:

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Southeast Regional Office
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**More Information**
More information on the circle hook requirement and other actions contained in Amendment 17A can be found by clicking on the following links:

- Frequently Asked Questions on Amendment 17A
- Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, 2010

**How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?**
If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins, please contact:
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